

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BERLIN 03123 01 OF 02 051038Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 EB-08 ACDA-12 COME-00 TRSE-00 AID-05 /101 W
-----025070 051052Z /21

R 051019Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7322
INFO AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
USINT HAVANA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
USMISSION USBERLIN
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BERLIN 03123

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, GE, GY
SUBJECT: GUYANA PRIME MINISTER VISITS GDR

REF: A) GEORGETOWN 60, B) GEORGETOWN 776, C) GEORGETOWN
1107 (NOTAL), D) BERLIN 2789

1. SUMMARY. GYUANA PRIME MINISTER VISITED EAST
BERLIN AND THE GDR IN A SIX-DAY OFFICIAL VISIT OVER THE
MAY DAY WEEKEND. IN PUBLIC STATEMENTS, STRESS WAS LAID
ON COOPERATION AND AGREEMENT BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES ON
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BERLIN 03123 01 OF 02 051038Z

INTERNATIONAL ISSUES AND ON STRENGTHENING BILATERAL
TIES. END SUMMARY.

2. GUYANA PRIME MINISTER BURNHAM PAID AN OFFICIAL VISIT
TO EAST BERLIN FROM APRIL 27 TO MAY 2 AT THE INVITATION
OF GDR PREMIER STOPH. DURING HIS STAY, BURNHAM MET
WITH CHIEF OF STATE AND PARTY HEAD HONECKER AND DIS-

CUSSED CURRENT INTERNATIONAL ISSUES AND BILATERAL DEVELOPMENTS. ACCORDING TO THE OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE, THERE WAS AGREEMENT ON THE MAJORITY OF ISSUES DISCUSSED. BOTH SIDES AGREED THAT RELATIONS AND COOPERATION BETWEEN THE GDR AND GUYANA HAVE DEVELOPED IN A PRODUCTIVE MANNER BUT THERE SHOULD BE CLOSER COOPERATION IN THE INTERNATIONAL FIELD.

3. THE COMMUNIQUE ANNOUNCED THAT HONECKER AND STOPH ACCEPTED INVITATIONS TO VISIT GUYANA.

4. THE CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN BURNHAM AND EAST GERMAN LEADERS APPEARED MOSTLY TO HAVE DEALT WITH INTERNATIONAL QUESTIONS AND ONLY TO A SMALL DEGREE WITH BILATERAL MATTERS, AND NO CONCRETE BILATERAL AGREEMENTS WERE ANNOUNCED. THE GDR WARMLY ENDORSED GUYANA'S FOREIGN POLICY AND ACKNOWLEDGED THE GREAT SIGNIFICANCE OF THE NON ALIGNED MOVEMENT. GUYANA'S DISPUTE WITH SURINAM WAS NOT ALLUDED TO IN ANY OF THE PUBLIC STATEMENTS. IN THE FINAL COMMUNIQUE CUBA WAS PRAISED, THE MILITARY JUNTA IN CHILE CONDEMNED AND THE US IGNORED. MAIN THEMES OF FINAL COMMUNIQUE BEING REPORTED IN GREATER DETAIL BY SEPTEL.

5. AS IS CUSTOMARY ON THESE OCCASIONS BURNHAM WAS TAKEN TO SEE THE BERLIN WALL AT A SPECIAL VIP REVIEWING CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BERLIN 03123 01 OF 02 051038Z

STAND NEAR THE BRANDENBURG GATE. THIS FACT WAS RECORDED FOR POSTERITY IN THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE WHICH NOTED THAT BURNHAM WAS INFORMED ABOUT THE "SECURE PROTECTION OF THE GDR'S FRONTIERS". THIS FORMULATION BY IMPLICATION GIVES GUYANA'S ENDORSEMENT TO THE GDR POSITION THAT THE BERLIN SECTOR LINE CONSTITUTES AN INTERNATIONAL FRONTIER.

6. SINCE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS IN APRIL 1973, THE GDR APPEARS TO HAVE MADE A MAJOR EFFORT TO CULTIVATE GUYANA. THE GDR AND GUYANA HAVE SIGNED A SERIES OF BILATERAL TREATIES AND AGREEMENTS INCLUDING ONE ON TRADE (1974), ON ECONOMIC, INDUSTRIAL AND SCIENTIFIC TECHNICAL COOPERATION (1976), ON CULTURAL AND SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION, ON VOCATIONAL TRAINING AND ON FISHERIES (1977).

7. TRADE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES APPEARS TO BE EXPANDING. THE GDR HAS SUPPLIED SMELTING EQUIPMENT, TRUCKS, TRACTORS, ROAD CONSTRUCTION AND MEDICAL EQUIPMENT, AND IMPORTS OF BAUXITE AND OTHER MINERALS. AS REPORTED REF B, THE GDR AND GUYANA AGREED DURING THE

VISIT TO EAST BERLIN OF GUYANAN MINISTER OF TRADE, KING,
IN FEBRUARY OF THIS YEAR, TO EXPAND TRADE ON THE BASIS
OF THE 1974 LONG-TERM AGREEMENT. KING VISITED CARL
ZEISS (JENA) WORKS AND REPORTEDLY AGREED TO PURCHASE
SCIENTIFIC INSTRUMENTS. AT THE SAME TIME AGREEMENTS
WERE REACHED ON DELIVERY OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING,
GLASS AND CERAMIC PRODUCTS (INCLUDING LABORATORY GLASS
AND THERMOMETERS) AND TEXTILES AND HOUSEHOLD CHEMICALS.
THERE WAS NO INDICATION HERE OF WHAT THE DOLLAR VALUE
OF THIS TRADE WAS OR WHAT GOODS THE GDR AGREED TO

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BERLIN 03123 02 OF 02 051047Z

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 EB-08 ACDA-12 COME-00 TRSE-00 AID-05 /101 W
-----025127 051052Z /21

R 051019Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7323
INFO AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
USINT HAVANA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
USMISSION USBERLIN
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BERLIN 03123

IMPORT FROM GUYANA. WE NOTE THAT IN MAY 1977 A LONG-
TERM AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED ON COOPERATION IN MINING
BAUXITE DEPOSITS. WE HAVE HEARD NOTHING FURTHER ON
THIS SINCE. THERE IS A GDR-GUYANA MIXED COMMISSION,
WHICH HAS MET ONCE IN EAST BERLIN AND ONCE IN GUYANA.

8. AS REPORTED REF D, WE HAVE HEARD THAT FON MIN

FISCHER WILL VISIT GUYANA DURING HIS FORTHCOMING LATIN AMERICAN TRIP, ALTHOUGH THERE HAS BEEN NO OFFICIAL CONFIRMATION OF THAT, AND THERE CONTINUES TO BE SPECULATION THAT HONECKER WILL AT THE SAME TIME ALSO VISIT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BERLIN 03123 02 OF 02 051047Z

GUYANA, SPECULATION THAT WILL PRESUMABLY BE ENCOURAGED BY HIS ACCEPTANCE OF BURNHAM'S INVITATION.

9. THE GDR'S RELATIONS WITH BURNHAM MAY PRESUMABLY BE COMPLICATED SOMEWHAT BY THE FACT THAT THE EAST GERMAN PARTY (SED) MAINTAINS TIES WITH GUYANA'S PROGRESSIVE PEOPLE'S PARTY. JANET JAGAN, A MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE PPP AND SECRETARY FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, VISITED EAST BERLIN IN FEBRUARY OF THIS YEAR AND MET WITH HERMANN AXEN, SED POLITBURO MEMBER AND SECRETARY FOR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND FRATERNAL PARTIES. IN THE PUBLISHED REPORTS OF THE MEETING, AXEN AND JAGAN AGREED ON "MEASURES TO DEEPEN BILATERAL RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO FRATERNAL PARTIES". HOWEVER, AXEN WAS CAREFUL TO MAKE CLEAR THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN THE GDR AND GUYANA, NOT JUST THE PPP, WERE ALSO GOOD.

10. COMMENT. BY COMPARISON WITH AFRICA, THE GDR SEEMS UNTIL NOW TO HAVE NEGLECTED LATIN AMERICA. THE GDR HAS CULTIVATED SOME LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES IN THE TRADE FIELD AND MAINTAINS CONTACTS WITH VARIOUS COMMUNIST PARTIES IN THE AREA. CUBA AND GUYANA ARE ONLY COUNTRIES WITH WHICH THE GDR HAS DEVELOPED CLOSE POLITICAL TIES. THERE ARE OBVIOUSLY POLICY DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE GDR AND GUYANA ON SOME ISSUES - MADE CLEAR BY THE REFERENCE IN PUBLIC STATEMENTS THAT THE TWO SIDES AGREED ON THE MAJORITY OF ISSUES DISCUSSED. HOWEVER, THE BURNHAM VISIT TO EAST BERLIN (AND ANY FUTURE VISITS BY EAST GERMAN LEADERS TO GEORGETOWN) SEEMED INTENDED TO CONSOLIDATE GAINS IN BILATERAL RELATIONS AND TO UNDERSCORE THE GDR'S SUPPORT FOR THE CURRENT GUYANA POLICIES AND, INCIDENTALLY, FOR BURNHAM. END COMMENT. BOLEN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRIME MINISTER, FOREIGN RELATIONS, MINISTERIAL VISITS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BERLIN03123
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780192-0088
Format: TEL
From: BERLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780591/aaaaczdy.tel
Line Count: 211
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e1e1cba3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 GEORGETOWN 60, 78 GEORGETOWN 776, 78 GEORGETOWN 78
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2786032
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GUYANA PRIME MINISTER VISITS GDR
TAGS: PEPR, GC, GY, (BURHAM, L F S)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e1e1cba3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014